



# 1997-98 KIRIS ASSESSMENT

## Open-Response Item Scoring Worksheet

### Grade 8—Vocational Studies

The **academic expectation** addressed by the open-response item “Advantages of Working with Others” is  
2.37 Students demonstrate skills and work habits that lead to success in future schooling and work.

The **core content** assessed by this item includes

- Both individual and team skills contribute to the successful completion of a task.

#### Advantages of Working with Others

For both school and work it may be necessary for a group of people to work together when completing a project.

Fully discuss four different advantages of working with others to complete a project.



# SCORING GUIDE

## Grade 8 Vocational Studies

Score	Description
4	Student fully discusses four <b>different</b> advantages of working with others.
3	Student fully discusses three different advantages of working with others. <b>OR</b> Student discusses four different advantages of working with others — discussion lacks development.
2	Student fully discusses two different advantages of working with others. <b>OR</b> Student discusses three advantages of working with others — discussion lacks development. <b>OR</b> Student lists three or four advantages of working with others.
1	Student identifies at least one advantage of working with others with or without discussion. <b>OR</b> Student lists one or two advantages of working with others. <b>OR</b> Student fully discusses one advantage of working with others.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

### Examples of advantages of working with others:

- “Two heads are better than one,” divide workload/responsibility
- Get more done, take less time to complete task, more efficient
- Benefit from others’ points of view and others’ ideas
- More ideas, various experiences and expertise
- More creative, more fun, interesting
- Less pressure, greater chance of getting a correct answer
- Make new friends, chance to work with friends
- You can learn from others in the group



# ANNOTATED STUDENT RESPONSE

## Grade 8 Vocational Studies

### Sample 4-Point Response of Student Work

#### Student Response

For both school and work it may be necessary for a group of people to work together when completing a project. There are many advantages of working with others to complete a project.

One advantage is that the group is able to split up the tasks in a project to make it easier. If one person was working on a big project by themselves, it would be a lot more time-consuming and a lot more work involved. By splitting up the tasks, the project is completed faster and probably more detailed.

By working in a group, many ideas and points of view are shared. Discussing the project and getting new ideas and learning others' perspectives helps the group to get a better understanding of the project and the people in the group. By sharing ideas and perspectives, one is able to come up with new conclusions, etc...

By working in groups, one can meet new people. Especially at work, working in groups allows one to meet new people and make new friends. Working in groups helps people understand the new people they've met and understand what the people believe in.

Working in groups helps one's social skills. By talking and discussing, one learns to share experiences and ideas freely. Working in groups gives everyone a chance to learn and to let others know what they already know.

← Student restates the prompt. This does not affect the student's score.

← Student fully discusses a first advantage of working with others (i.e., splitting up tasks makes a project easier).

← Student fully discusses a second advantage of working with others (i.e., sharing ideas and points of view).

← Student fully discusses a third advantage of working with others (i.e., meeting new people).

← Student fully discusses a fourth advantage of working with others (i.e., developing/refining social skills).

Overall, the student fully discusses four different advantages of working with others, demonstrating a solid understanding of the benefits of working with others.



# ANNOTATED STUDENT RESPONSE

## Grade 8 Vocational Studies

### Sample 3-Point Response of Student Work

#### Student Response

#1 When you work with a group things get done a lot faster because each person can work on one thing and not one person working on all of it.

#2 Things get done a lot better. Since each person is given one responsibility the stress is less and each person can do what they're good at.

#3 You can help each other out with all of that knowledge if one doesn't know the other will.

#4 It's a lot funner. You have people to talk to and take breaks with.

I like to work in groups because I'm a social person. It helps me to relax. I like it better when I'm not in charge.



Student discusses a first advantage of working with others (i.e., getting work done faster). Discussion is general.



Student discusses a second advantage of working with others (i.e., getting work done better). Discussion is general.



Student discusses a third advantage of working with others (i.e., helping each other out). Discussion is general.



Student discusses a fourth advantage of working with others (i.e., having more fun). Discussion is general.

Overall, the student discusses four possible advantages of working with others. Though the discussion lacks the development necessary to score a 4, the student does demonstrate an understanding that groups can complete work faster and “better” than individuals by dividing labor, utilizing the strengths of team members, and helping each other when necessary.



# ANNOTATED STUDENT RESPONSE

## Grade 8 Vocational Studies

### Sample 2-Point Response of Student Work

#### Student Response

Working in a group has many advantages that you can get from it. One of them is that you get more ideas and better ideas if working in a group. Also you can get what you are working on done a lot quicker in a group if everybody works. You get more help from your group members. A lot of times sinse you are working in a group you get a better grade.

← Student lists, rather than discusses, four possible advantages of working with others (i.e., getting more and better ideas, getting work done quicker, getting help from group members, and getting a better grade).

### Sample 1-Point Response of Student Work

#### Student Response

Student lists, rather than discusses, a first advantage of working with others (i.e., saving time).

→ Working with others is beneficial because having several people work on something saves time. Also, people are usually good at different things so you get people the jobs they are good at and then put them together, your project will be better than if one did it all.

← Student discusses a second advantage of working with others (i.e., creating a better project by utilizing the strengths and combining the work of all team members).



# INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

## Grade 8 Vocational Studies

The open-response item “Advantages of Working with Others” assesses students’ understanding that there are various benefits to working together. The instructional strategies below present ideas to help students master this concept.

Explain the advantages of working in groups and discuss specific strategies for effective group work (e.g., assigning roles, dividing tasks, identifying and utilizing the strengths of team members, communicating effectively).

Create opportunities for students to work in groups to complete both short-term and long-term classroom assignments. Coach students as they work together to help them master effective group work skills.

Following group work, have students reflect on the experience, both individually and as a class. This can be done in writing and orally. Provide some questions to help guide students with reflection. For example:

- What were some advantages of working as a group on this assignment?
- What did your group do to work well together?
- What could your group have done to work more effectively together?
- What did you learn about your group members as a result of working together on this project?

Invite a variety of professionals who regularly work in groups/teams to speak to the class about the importance of teamwork in their jobs. Encourage speakers to share personal examples of effective teamwork and to explain specific strategies their group/team uses to work well together. Some examples of professionals to invite include:

- An employee in a local business/corporation
- A coach or member of a successful professional, college, or high school sports team
- A director or member of a musical group (e.g., rock band, chorus, symphony, marching band)
- An emergency medical professional

Have students work individually, in pairs, and/or in small groups to complete any or all of the following activities:

- Read a novel and/or watch a movie that focuses on people working together to reach a common goal. Afterwards, discuss how the people worked together to reach their goal.
- Research real-life examples of successful teamwork. Students can share their examples with classmates through a variety of means (e.g., oral presentations, skits or plays, short stories). The class can discuss reasons why the teams involved in the examples were successful.
- Interview members of local groups/teams (e.g., sports teams, musical groups) regarding their successes and failures at working together. Use the interview data to develop a list of group work “DOs” and “DON’Ts.”
- Create a series of posters that highlight rules for effective group work and advantages of group work. Hang the posters in the classroom so that students may refer to them as they work together on various group assignments.
- Organize and implement a large-scale class project that benefits the school or the local community.